

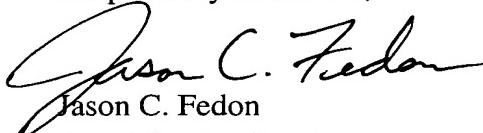
REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is being made upon entry of International Application No. PCT/EP2003/012830 into the U.S. National Phase of prosecution. In the specification, a new paragraph has been added to the first line of the specification to include the priority information. An Abstract on a separate sheet is attached as required under 37 CFR 1.72(b).

Claims 1 to 23 are pending. Claims 1 to 16 and 19 to 22 have been amended to eliminate multiple dependencies and to conform the claim set to the proper U.S. format. Claims 17, 18, and 23 have been cancelled. There is no issue of new matter.

Entry of this preliminary amendment into the record is requested. The Applicants reserve the right to prosecute, in one or more patent applications, the cancelled claims, the claims as originally filed, and any other claims supported by the specification. If it would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to confer with the Applicants' undersigned agent.

Respectfully submitted,



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